

In the Claims:

Claims 1-12 (Cancelled)

Claim 13 (Renumbered as claim 1) A method for installing an engine in a marine vessel, said method comprising the steps of:

 mating said jig to a propeller shaft of the marine vessel;

 coupling said jig upon a plurality of stringers in the marine vessel;

 adjusting the position of said jig relative to the marine vessel using a leveling device according to predetermined engine installation criteria;

 drilling a plurality of engine mount drill holes through drill bushings in said jig;

 removing said jig from the marine vessel; and

 positioning the engine into the marine vessel so that said plurality of engine mount drill holes align with a plurality of engine mounts of the engine.

Claim 13 (Amended and Renumbered as claim 2) The method of claim [12] 1 wherein said coupling step includes attaching a plurality of stringer brackets to stringers of the marine vessel.

Claim 14 (Amended and Renumbered as claim 3) The method of claim [13] 1 wherein said coupling step further includes securing said jig to said stringer brackets.

Claim 15 (Renumbered as claim 4) A method for installing an engine in a marine vessel, said method comprising the steps of:

mating said jig to a propeller shaft of the marine vessel;
coupling said jig upon a plurality of stringers in the marine vessel;
adjusting the position of said jig relative to the marine vessel using a leveling device according to predetermined engine installation criteria;
marking a plurality of engine mount drill holes through drill bushings in said jig;
removing said jig from the marine vessel;
drilling a plurality of engine mount drill holes according to markings resulting from said marking step; and
positioning the engine into the marine vessel so that said plurality of engine mount drill holes align with a plurality of engine mounts of the engine.

Claim 16 (Amended and Renumbered as claim 5) The method of claim [15] 4 wherein said coupling step includes attaching a plurality of stringer brackets to stringers of the marine vessel.

Claim 17 (Amended and Renumbered as claim 6) The method of claim [16] 5 wherein said coupling step further includes securing said jig to said stringer brackets.